Introduction of new schemes

†2758. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new schemes for agro and rural industries for overall development of rural population;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent such schemes would be beneficial for agro and rural industries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details and expected benefits of the new schemes under consideration in Agro and Rural Sector are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

New schemes under consideration for Agro Rural Industries

1. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for Khadi Weavers and Artisans: This is a scheme exactly identical to the one under implementation in the Ministry of Textiles.

2. Scheme for enhancement of productivity and competitiveness of Khadi Industry and Artisans: This aims to provide financial assistance to 200 of the 'A plus' and 'A' category Khadi institutions in a Public Private Partnership mode to release increase value addition to Khadi product, readymade garments, muslin khadi, setting up of common facility centre, need based dying and printing facilities besides ensuring better wages to artisans along with skill upgradation.

3. Package for developing infrastructure of Khadi institutions including nursing fund for weak institutions: This scheme envisages replacement of looms and charkhas for increasing production of khadi and to expand employment base. The scheme involves renovation of sales outlets also.

4. Restructuring of Rural Employment Generation Programme: This scheme is going to be a comprehensive proposal which seeks to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

merge the major employment generation schemes *viz.* Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana and Rural Employment Generation Programme.

5. Rejuvenation, modernisation and technology upgradation for coir Industry: The Scheme has two components. First is the rejuvenation and modernisation part. Increasing the utilization of husk, better conversion rate of husk into coir products and providing additional employment to around 50,000 workers per year are some of the targets.

The second part is to promote 5 mega clusters, one each in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa.

Distribution of funds to fertilizer companies

†2759. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are possibilities of fertilizers crisis in the current Kharif season also;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether subsidy on urea is pending to be sanctioned for fertilizer industries;

(d) whether fertilizer industry is facing cash crunch;

(e) if so, the reasons for not sanctioning funds so far to the fertilizers manufacturing units; and

(f) by when the pending subsidy is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir, all efforts are being made to ensure adequate availability of fertilizers in the States during the current Kharif season. However, movement and distribution of only 50% of indigenous production of urea is under the control of the Government. Also, State Governments are responsible for ensuring proper distribution of fertilizers within the State.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.